

## [Charity B. Couch]

s-241-KEI DUP

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 16, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Charity B. Couch
2. Date and time of interview Nov. [15?], 1938 2o'clock
3. Place of interview In her living room and dinning room
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant I have known Mrs. Couch many years, and several have mention her name.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you No one Mrs. Klever was here when I came.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Square, 3 high windows over buffet. Has a radio, dinning room suit. c.15 Neb.

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr

DATE Nov. 16, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Charity B. Couch

## Library of Congress

1. Ancestry His parents were from Massachusetts, Hers from Pennsylvania
2. Place and date of birth Buda Ill. Jan. 17, 1862.
3. Family Her and husband
4. Place lived in, with dates Lived in Glidden Iowa 2 years 1882to '83 came here in '84. Oct. I moved here, took homestead in Aug.
5. Education, with dates Cannon school education, started to school at 7 years, 1869.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farming and raising cattle and horses. All her life up till Mr. Couch died Mar. 11, 1921.
7. Special skills and interests Homemaking raising flowers and keeping up the appearance of her home.
8. Community and religious activities Members of Ladies Aid, [W.C.T.U.,?] Missionary Society, Relief Corps als a member of the Rebekah assembly.
9. Description of informant Well educated in many lines
10. Other points gained in interview She has traveled around a great deal.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Neb.

DATE Nov. 16, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Charity Bell Couch Ogallala, Neb.

## Library of Congress

Mrs. Couch and her husband, Ilus Couch, were both born and reared near Buda, Bureau County, Illinois, and were married at Buda in October, 1882; at which time they started west, living at Glidden, Iowa for two years, coming to Keith County October 1, 1884, filing on a homestead in August and building a two story house, and making other necessary improvements. This homestead was six miles west of Ogallala and on the north side of the South Platte River. Here they started up in the cattle raising business, and were very successful. Like all the pioneering people of that day they underwent a great many hardships, adding to their homestead until they had acquired 1800 acres of land. The Couches received their early education in Illinois, where they grew up. When they first came here; this being a sort of free range; Mrs. Couch says she scarcely dared step outside the yard because there were so many long horned cattle and there were no neighbors between their place and Ogallala except the old Searle Ranch. There was no school for a year or so as there were no children in the district, and no social gatherings at that time such as church, Sunday school, literary, or dances, as people lived too far apart.

There were a few buffalo, deer, antelope and gray wolves, and also large numbers of wild fowl such as prairie chickens, grouse, geese, and ducks.

Mr. and Mrs. Couch lived here until the fall of 1921 when Mr. Couch passed away. Mrs. Couch brought her present modern home on west Third street. Having no children Mrs. Couch is a great lover of flowers, and homemaking is her specialty. Despite her years she still takes care of her fine home. She belongs to the Methodist church, Ladies' aid, W.C.T.U., Missionary society, Relief corps, and a member of the Rebekah assembly. Coming here from the East as they did, the Couches sadly missed fresh fruit as about all they could get along that line here was dried currents and raisins. Her mother sent them some dried apples and she says they thought they had quite a treat.

Mr. Couch was born February 9, 1862.